

**Minutes of the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council  
Alcohol Treatment Court Subcommittee  
Wednesday, May 20, 2009**

Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Chair Kathy Foster (left at 1:26 p.m.)  
Kathy Madden (left at 1:26 p.m.)  
Brad Schimel  
Sara Carpenter

Ray Cunneen (left at 1:22 p.m.)  
Jean LaTour  
Lee Dreyfus (arrived at 12:46 p.m.)  
Dan Fay (left at 12:53 p.m.)

**Committee Members Absent:**

Diane Kelsner  
Meg Schnabl  
Eric Raskopf

Mike DeMares  
Karl Held

**Also Present:**

Rebecca Luczaj  
Matt Hiller  
Christine Saum-Hiller

Kristy Gusse  
Heather Nelson

**Presentation on Vivitrol**

Nelson gave a PowerPoint presentation titled *Understanding Alcohol Dependence, the Brain & Vivitrol* and distributed hard copies of the presentation to the committee. She explained that Vivitrol, an injection providing treatment for one month, blocks endorphins from attaching to brain cells preventing the excessive release of dopamine and blocking the excessive reward of alcohol. Alcohol dependence and the inherent biological urge to drink can make adherence to oral daily medications difficult. Patients on Vivitrol feel the side effects of alcohol but are no longer able to enjoy the euphoria. The RX is generally given after detox when patients leave treatment. Withdrawal symptoms and anxiety are treated separately. There are not any concerns of biological side effects if patients drink while using Vititrol. Vititrol in conjunction with counseling provides relapse prevention, recovery skills, self acceptance and personal growth by treating the biological urge to drink and giving patients the best chance for success. Other ATCs across the United States use Vititrol. She can provide the committee with a list of sites that administer Vivitrol. Waukesha County HHS currently uses it.

Nelson said people are usually on Vivitrol one year but the length of treatment depends on the person. Treatment providers decide when patients are able to go off the medicine and remain abstinent. Injections cost \$704 per month which is covered by Wisconsin Medicaid and private insurance. The first injection is free. Financial assistance programs are available for those who make less than \$125K annually who do not have insurance or need help covering the cost of the co-pays.

Carpenter asked what is the success rate of Vivitrol? What happens when people come off the RX? Nelson said because the medicine has only been out three years, no studies are available to answer these questions. Carpenter asked what are the occurrence rates of side effects? Nelson said side effects may include a reaction at the injection site, headache, fatigue, dizziness, decreased appetite, painful joints and muscle cramps. It is a tool to help people remain abstinent.

Fay asked should women who are pregnant or considering getting pregnant take this RX? Nelson said that population has not been studied. It is up to their doctor.

Foster asked can people with liver problems take Vivitrol? Nelson said the drug was tested with different impairments of the liver. Patients should talk to their doctors to decide if they should be on this medicine.

Judge Dreyfus arrived at 12:46 pm.

LaTour said it is unfortunate the cost is not more affordable. Nelson said there is financial aid available. She will send client assistance forms to the CJCC.

Fay left at 12:53 p.m.

### **ATC Program Update**

Gusse said since the inception of the ATC three-years ago, 139 participants have been served, 8,396 self-help meetings have been attended, four participants have re-offended and 78 have graduated. Currently there are 54 participants in the program with two graduations scheduled for this week. The recidivism rate for participants while in the program is less than 1%.

Hiller is pulling data to see how many participants re-offend (i.e. OWIs, OAR, criminal charges, etc.) after graduation. He said pulling the data is labor intensive because it comes out of CCAP and is not linked to the ATCdatabase. It could be built into the database but each person would still need to be queried separately.

Madden recommended devising a system that would flag posted cases in CCAP by client name.

### **Overview of Work of ATC Fee Implementation Workgroup**

Luczaj, Carpenter, LaTour and Joann Eiring met in April to discuss what changes were needed in order to begin implementing program fees June 1, 2009 in the ATC.

The group had the following goals:

- To inform participants of the new fee model as early as possible during the application phase.
- To incorporate the new fee model and compliance rules in the participants' handbook.
- To alert potential participants of the fees by including a warning notice on the application forms.
- To not discourage people from entering the program because of the fees.

Luczaj distributed and reviewed a handout titled, *Waukesha County Alcohol Treatment Court Program Cost Comparison to Huber*. The handout, which will be distributed to clients, compares the cost of ATC versus Huber. LaTour said HHS will assess the fees and WCS will collect them. People will first apply for the program and then be assessed for their ability to pay.

Gusse said she would hate to go through a one to 1.5 hour intake to then discover the person can not afford the program. Carpenter said people will be informed of the fee and payment options when they are screened for the program before intake. LaTour said the process can be redesigned if it appears that people are dropping out after the 1.5 hour intake because of the costs.

LaTour said there are other issues that need to be changed or updated in the handbook. A group will meet to review and rework the program rules in the handbook.

MOTION: LaTour moved, Cunneen second, to accept the proposed changes to the participant handbooks as related to program fees. Motion carried 6-0.

The committee decided that changes to the participant handbook will be brought to future committee meetings for discussion and consideration.

The committee decided that Vivitrol should be further investigated including whether or not use would be recommended or mandated.

Cunneen left at 1:22 p.m.

Foster and Madden left at 1:26 p.m.

### **Update on SAMHSA Grant Submission**

Luczaj said Waukesha County's 73 page SAMHSA grant application was submitted May 8, 2009 for \$816,506 to serve 150, fourth time OWI offenders over a three-year period. Award notifications would be sent in late August to early September and the program would begin October 1, 2009. The components of the grant are case management, outpatient treatment, wrap around/supportive services, evaluation and ongoing staff training.

### **ATC Subcommittee Membership Recommendation**

Luczaj said Held wanted the committee to consider adding an ATC graduate to the subcommittee. He feels a graduate could add an important perspective. LaTour didn't think this was a good idea. She said it would be fine to have a graduate at a meeting to provide feedback and perspective but it would not be appropriate for them to be a member of the committee. Dreyfus said some nonprofits require someone on the board that has been a recipient of services. He could see adding someone who has graduated from the program three to four years ago. Schimel said he would be concerned the committee would not be able to speak frankly with the ATC graduate on the committee.

### **Set Next Meeting Date**

- June 24 at 12:15 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.